

**Parks and Recreation Master Plan
and
Sedona Community Plan Update Public Meeting
Imagine Sedona – 2020 & Beyond
Parks & Recreation Master Plan Workshop
Sedona Community Center
2615 Melody Lane, Sedona, AZ
Tuesday, October 18, 2011 - 4:00 p.m.**

Public Participants (excludes those listed below): 35

Committee Members:

Chairman Jim Eaton, Vice Chairman Jon Thompson and Committee Members Angela LeFevre, Elemer Magaziner, Judy Reddington, Rio Robson and John Sather

Councilors:

Mayor Rob Adams, Vice Mayor Cliff Hamilton and Councilor Dennis Rayner

Commissioners:

Housing:

Sandy Moriarty

Parks & Recreation:

Roy Juda, Robert McElvain and Steve Muhl

Planning & Zoning:

Norm Taylor

Sustainability:

Marlene Rayner

Staff:

Tim Ernster, Nick Gioello, Kathy Levin, Rachel Murdoch, Donna Puckett, Mike Raber, Ali Toth and Andi Welsh

INTRODUCTION:

Andi Welsh thanked the audience for coming and introduced the attending members of the City Council, Parks & Recreation Commission, and Parks & Recreation Department staff. Andi then explained that the City is embarking on the City's first Parks & Recreation Master Plan. It is a 10-year plan for the parks & recreation system, and it will be a very detailed plan, but it is also being done in conjunction with the Community Plan update. Parks & Recreation is a component of the Community Plan in which it may address things from a broader perspective, but the Master Plan will help drill down into the details to help figure out what the community wants in terms of parks & recreation.

Mike Raber introduced Jim Eaton, Chairman of the Citizens Steering Committee, who then introduced the members of the Citizens Steering Committee who were in attendance. Jim then indicated that the Committee is an all-volunteer group. The City hasn't hired a consultant for this job; they decided to hand it over to a bunch of amateurs, but they appointed some top quality amateurs, and he is very proud to be part of the bunch.

Mike Raber explained that he wanted to talk about what a Community Plan is; it is our General Plan that is required by the State of Arizona and it is our vision of the future that tells us how and where we should grow and not grow, such as in the next ten years, how our land should be used; the best ways to handle our traffic; how we should maintain our natural resources and where we should have parks and trails; plus what kinds of jobs and housing will be needed and how we make sure that Sedona is a place where people enjoy living. In other words, the Community Plan covers a lot of ground, including land use, growth, open space, environment, water resources, transportation, etc. The State also requires an update of the Plan every ten years and that is what we are doing now, but another reason is that conditions and priorities change over time, and if we don't pay attention to that, we end up with a plan that isn't doing its job. We always have to improve on the Plan and sometimes the process itself is just as important as the final document. We now are beginning to transition out of the first phase of the planning process, which has been who we are and what we look like, etc., into what we can be in the future, so today's workshop for the Committee is the fifth in a series of seven that we are doing over the next month or so, and following the workshops, we will be looking at what we are hearing from the community and

what that means in terms of the community's values, priorities and goals. Then, we will build on that and look for alternative futures for the community and work toward creating a common vision; hopefully, we will be doing that by the middle of next year. Our common vision will become the new Community Plan, and that will go through a public hearing process with the Planning & Zoning Commission and the City Council toward the end of next year, but as citizens, you have the final say by voting on the Plan in 2013.

Mike then explained that the workshops' themes have been based partly on what we are hearing from the community and what we know we have to cover in the Community Plan as well. Today we are looking at parks & recreation; where we need parks and trails and what other recreation needs we have. In a few minutes, you will hear about a different plan that Andi spoke to, and it is specifically for the Parks & Recreation Master Plan; however, our Community Plan is not just a land use map and it covers a lot of other ground, and the Community Plan is not just a document, but an evolving process. The Parks & Recreation Master Plan is a very specific plan and it has a narrower, more detailed focus and outcome than the Community Plan does, because it gets into specific facilities, programs and more immediate needs for the City. As we move forward with our Community Plan process, we will take the more long-range elements from the Parks & Recreation Master Plan and use that to help build the new Community Plan, and as the Parks & Recreation Master Plan moves forward, they in turn will be looking at what comes out of the Community Plan process to ensure their Plan is consistent with the big picture, which is what the Community Plan is all about, so the two Plans will benefit each other as we move forward working on them simultaneously.

Mike explained that today we are going to have a presentation by Olsson Associates on the Parks & Recreation Master Plan, and then we will have a series of questions at each table that will focus on parks & recreation. There will be a facilitator and recorder at each table, and then each table's recorder will summarize the highlights of what they heard, so we will spend about an hour in discussion and about one-half hour for the tables' summaries.

Andi Welsh then introduced the following consulting team members who are working on the Parks & Recreation Master Plan: Jeff Kratzke, Project Manager with Olsson Associates and Brian Trusty, a sub-consultant to Olsson Associates from Pros Consulting.

PRESENTATION:

Jeff Kratzke, Project Manager with Olsson Associates: Indicated that in many public meetings, they don't get near the number of participants, so he wanted to thank everyone for attending. This is a very important step in the process, because they are just getting underway with the Parks & Recreation Master Plan, and they are hoping that you will remain with them throughout the process, because the input is extremely valuable.

Jeff then indicated it is a very simple agenda for today, and they are going to walk through some background to stimulate a little thought. He then asked how many attendees had lived in Sedona for five years or less, five to ten years, ten years or longer, and anyone 20 years or more. While a few people indicated they had been here five years or less, the vast majority of attendees had been here over 10 years with many living here for 20 years or more. Jeff indicated that speaks to the commitment to your community and the changes that occur in Sedona through the years, and that is why it is very important to have them present.

Jeff then indicated that he was going to go through a few slides. First, referencing the background to set the stage for the Parks & Recreation Master Plan, he explained that it was going to take about 12 months to get through their process. They started the first part of August, so they have been at it for a couple of months, doing a lot of information gathering. Some leadership and focus group interviews were conducted in late August, and Brian will share some highlights from those, but if everything goes as planned, they should be wrapping up the Master Plan by the middle of next summer. Again, the Plan is really intended to identify the priorities for the City of Sedona, recognizing the many unique characteristics that make Sedona a special place. They are going to outline a plan of action as they develop the Master Plan, and most importantly, that action plan will complement the Community Plan as Mike explained the

relationship with the Community Plan and how the Parks & Recreation Master Plan fits into that, and the integration of the two Plans.

Jeff pointed out that there are many goals and objectives that they have already identified for the Master Plan, but the most important thing is for them to validate and/or change some of the goals and objectives as they move through the Master Plan process, so when they get done, they have reaffirmed and gotten the residents' commitment and understanding of what those are and how they are integrated into the Master Plan. They are going to establish the direction for future decisions -- and whether it is the Community Plan or the Parks & Recreation Master Plan, the end goal is to establish where you want to go in the future -- for the next five years, ten years, and ten years and beyond.

Jeff indicated that in developing an approach to enhance expanding opportunities, he is going to show a graphic, but you already know the various offerings and facilities, if you have participated in various parks & recreation-related programs, but they want to ensure that the Parks & Recreation Master Plan process is responsive to what they hear about those opportunities currently available, and some of those wants, wishes, desires and needs that should be addressed and be part of this roadmap for the Master Plan, and he says "roadmap", because that is really the way they want it to be used, and you should use it for guidance and as an easy to follow implementable plan, and to make sure you are following some of the specific priorities and action planning strategies that will be included in that.

Jeff indicated that in providing a needs assessment, within the next few weeks, they will be engaging in a community survey that is specifically tailored to understand what the community has to say about parks & recreation, open space, trailheads, etc., within Sedona, so the heart of the needs assessment will be that survey and the survey results are going to be very powerful for them. Once they get the results of that survey, it is important that they do a very good job of integrating what they learn through that with input from the public meetings and interviews, so again, ultimately the planning priorities equals that facilitated interaction.

Jeff then explained that there are several significant opportunities for everyone to get involved in this planning process; it is much the same as the Community Plan process and they are truly reaching out and trying to engage the community in different ways. Some people are more comfortable participating in one way versus another, so they conducted some leadership and focus group interviews the end of August and that kicked-off the process and gave them a chance to begin to understand and hear some of the issues and things people thought would need to be addressed in the Master Plan process. Then, the community survey will be another very powerful tool, plus these public workshops. There will be a few of them and they may have a different format, but each one will be a major building block in the Master Plan process. They are also going to conduct some youth surveys and staff is assisting in getting them out to the schools to give the students a chance to tell us, from two different age groups, elementary and high school, what the youth have to say about what is important to them, which will provide a nice blend of representation of the different perspectives. Then, the advisory charrette is an opportunity that will come in the early part of next year, when they really bring all of the things they have heard along the way to a final brainstorming, to help organize the information and develop some of the priorities, key action items and strategies that will be the foundation of the Parks & Recreation Master Plan, so there are a lot of ways to get involved.

Jeff explained that the boundary for the project and their study area is the City's boundaries and there are two major transportation corridors, S.R. 89A and S.R. 179. He then identified the City's boundaries and the location of five current park facilities -- Posse Grounds, Sunset, Botanical Garden, Jamison Memorial and Jordan, and indicated that in addition to recognizing how important those facilities are, we also know that the trail opportunities are very unique and special to Sedona, and whether they are trails within the City or connecting with trailheads and into the Forest Service, those are unique characteristics. Jeff then identified the existing trailhead locations and pointed out that most of them are very close to the boundary of the Forest Service land and the City. He mentioned that is unique to Sedona and they heard that a lot in the preliminary discussions and interviews; bottom line, Sedona is in the middle of a park. There is the

Forest Service and pristine wilderness that surrounds the City and that is a very unique distinction for the community, so that will be taken into consideration in a big way during the Master Plan process.

Brian Trusty with Pros Consulting: Explained that they work quite a bit with the Olsson team in Arizona, and Pros Consulting also works with Master Plan projects and Planned Park projects all over the country. He then indicated that the audience should be quite proud; he and Jeff facilitated a public meeting in the City of Glendale about a year ago and that is a city of 250,000 people, and it was the first City Parks & Recreation Master Plan public meeting and only six people showed up, so you have done a great job of showing up in droves, and he thanks you for being here.

Brian indicated that Sedona has six park facilities, and the Uptown parking lot is actually overseen by Andi Welsh and her team in cooperation with Charles Mosley the Public Works Director, and there is a total of 93.82 acres of parkland within the City limits, which is very respectable. If you average that out, in terms of approximately 12,000 residents, that is 7.81 acres per 1,000 residents, which is a very respectable number of park acres per resident, and it probably is a bit surprising to a lot of residents that you have that much of a City Park presence, but 75% to 80% of that is in one facility and that is Posse Grounds. You also have a pretty good diversity of facilities, but again a lot of them are located between two sites, Sunset and Posse Grounds, so you have softball fields and the multi-use field really refers to the rectangular soccer/football field at Posse Grounds; tennis courts at both Posse Grounds and Sunset; same with volleyball courts, which needs a little help at Posse Grounds, but it is there; basketball court; dog park; skate park, which is extremely popular; ramadas; teen center; pool, etc. You actually have a good diverse system, but the opportunity with the Master Plan is determine how we can continue to serve the needs of the residents without going overboard while meeting your priorities and values.

Brian indicated that some of the things they have learned so far include the following:

- Sedona is surrounded by a park - they heard that over and over again, so making sure that we don't over-plan what is necessary inside the City limits, but complement what is outside of the City limits.
- Park sites and recreation programs - even though they are run by a very small staff, they are really amazing. They heard a lot of great compliments from folks about the quality of the programs, and they personally observed the quality of the park sites. Unfortunately, a lot of times communities hire groups like them to do a Master Plan and a Strategic Plan at a time when their park systems are deteriorating and they need a rescue, but that is not the case. Sedona is a good news story; the parks are in great condition and you are staying proactive and ahead of the curve by going into a planning process at this time. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to know that tourism is a major economic driver in the community, and he has a friend who is working on a Tourism Plan in Alaska now, and he can say with statistical confidence that the number of annual tourists that come to the City of Sedona, a community of approximately 12,000 residents, is equal to the same number of annual tourists to the entire State of Alaska. Brian indicated that he grew up in a very small tourist town in the Texas hill country and it is kind of a love - hate relationship some of the time. You love tourists and tourism, because it drives your economy, but they also create all sorts of issues, such as traffic congestion and impact on parks and lands nearby, so they need to ensure this Parks & Recreation Master Plan does the appropriate role of positioning tourism where it needs to be, in relation to quality of life for those that live here.

They asked what you think about the Parks & Recreation Program playing a role in the visitors' experience and a lot of folks felt there was no role there, but they asked some of the tour operators and they disagreed and stated that tourists ask all the time before going back to the hotel room, where they can take their kids, so they can burn off some steam, and a lot of times the tour operators are directing people to Sunset and Posse Grounds Parks mostly. The Jordan Historical Park is a tourism amenity within the City, so City parks & recreation sites play more of a role in the tourism economy here than a lot of people give credit to. The programs and facilities are valued differently by residents; the residents in the City of Sedona are very diverse and people derive value from those sites and programs for different reasons, so making sure we adhere to that diversity is very important. Sedona also has arts in its heart, so outdoor performance venues are very popular and with the ongoing efforts of Barbara's Park, it is something that is continuing to evolve.

- While there are oftentimes many opportunities for disagreement in a community about what is important to them; there are four things without a doubt that they have heard over and over again, and have gotten the highest level of consensus on so far.
 - It is very important to activate Oak Creek as more of a park and recreation amenity; a quality of life amenity in the City of Sedona -- whether it is through a trail or some park along the creek; it seems to be something that is really missing, as the opportunities to access the creek from the leisure recreational perspective is fairly limited.
 - Trails and walkability - trails, trails, trail, and trails - that is what they hear at all of the meetings. You can see the map of the layout of the trailheads, and we have a representative here from the Forest Service, but access points and trails on those lands is a key issue for residents. They want to ensure that we attend to that in the Plan, so improving trails and access. They also heard the Heart of Sedona concept is something that is very important to residents, whether it is a park or some site, etc.
 - They were also asked to look at some recreational enhancements at the wastewater treatment facility, so you will hear them talk about that a little today in the table discussions, but there has been some work done previously by a task force and there are a lot of complexities at the wastewater treatment facilities. There are other agencies and entities that have control over what goes on out there, beyond just the City, so it is not an easy issue and there is no silver bullet that will solve all of the questions, but this Plan can do a lot towards trying to crystallize some vision from the community on what is important to be looked at and forwarded.
 - They also found that the community is fairly fiscally conservative and most folks are not initially supportive of a big tax, fees or any funding issue for parks & recreation, unless benefits are clearly communicated and laid out, so while they are fiscally conservative, they are also open to new ideas.

Jeff Kratzke, Project Manager with Olsson Associates: Indicated that the participants could now begin their breakout table exercises and pointed out that Jennifer Burns with the United States Forest Service is present as a resource if there are questions involving the Forest Service. Jeff then asked that the participants ensure that they have at least touched on each of the questions within the hour given.

PARTICIPANTS' BREAKOUT TABLE DISCUSSIONS:

The participants began their breakout table discussions at 4:35 p.m. and concluded at 5:30 p.m.

CLOSING:

Jeff Kratzke, Project Manager with Olsson Associates: Indicated that the recorders would present the highlights of the major points noted in the table discussions.

John Sather reported that the group was generally very happy with parks & recreation in the parks we have. Some believe there is a need for community gardens, and early on there was a lot of energy in the City for parks development, but some of that steam seems to be lost. We also need to look to our Spanish-speaking residents as it relates to their use of parks and what their culture has taught them, as it relates to community and community gatherings in the parks. That idea then led to the idea of Sundays in the park and the whole use ethic of the parks. There was also discussion of the Stupa and the idea of meditative parks, quiet reflective parks, and the group liked the tennis and basketball. Some don't even use the parks and primarily depend on the National Forest, and they liked the dog park. The need for more community gathering in the parks; we have parks, but they don't seem to create gatherings unless there are certain events that call the community together at a park. They also discussed the idea of doing more with less in the next 10 years and the sharing of resources between the community, schools and Forest Service, to prevent providing the same things. Also discussed was the idea that the Wastewater Treatment Plant could become a great botanical garden or the Wastewater Treatment Plant could become nothing more than a Wastewater Treatment Plant. Then, there was the idea of neighborhood-centered parks and small private gestures of land, not necessarily turned over to the City, for little threads of parks and not even necessarily pocket parks. There also was an idea that we might charge fees to the tourists for some of the more developed amenities, and if we get a botanical garden, maybe the Wastewater Treatment Plant could have lots of things like bird watching, fishing, and farming.

Brian Trusty with Pros Consulting: Indicated he had the pleasure of recording for the group and the gist of what he picked up on was first that everybody was very pleased with the sites and programs of the parks & recreation system as it is today, and there have been wonderful improvements on the maintenance side, as far as the condition of the facilities from what it had been in the past. They are doing better and doing a lot with little. They want to continue to look at diversity in the parks, and not just focused around the recreational needs of kids, but of all folks throughout the age spectrum. This group also was very crafty in how to treat consultants, because he ended up with a list of questions more than statements, like "What is the balance of parks versus trails and the proportional amounts for people who live here?" "What is the demographic make-up?" Where do people with kids live versus people without kids?" They also talked about connectivity within the community and the String of Pearls versus the Heart of Sedona concept, and what those pearls are to connect the community. They also indicated that it would be great to have a paved, easy bike path that doesn't take a cycling guru to be able to navigate it, and improve the walkability of the community. On the Wastewater Treatment Plant, everybody seemed to be more in favor of less development - wildlife/bird sanctuary-type approach, except one wanted to relocate the airport out there. Essentially, folks did want to see the City support programming some more and bring back some programs that previously were popular. They only supported taxes for people living on Jim Eaton's street, but they would rather see taxes over fees, although they aren't going to say that they are interested in more taxes, but they could pay more if it went to a clearly advantageous project.

Vice Chairman Jon Thompson indicated that in terms of the general impression question, there was a sense from one speaker that there are not many residents that use the large parks, because tourists tend to show up there and we need more of the smaller parks instead. Generally, there was a feeling that there is not enough to let people know about the parks we do have and there should be better advertisement for that. On the important features question, it depends on what type of programs the City wants to promote, and they like getting emails and communications about activities, so that does help. As far as needs being met, there was a comment about getting more music concerts in the parks, and community gardens came up again. One comment was that some people don't attend some of the programs, because of insufficient parking, like at the library. It is better than it used to be, but he specifically asked them if public transportation were available, even for evening programs, would people use that, and the general feeling was yes, they would take advantage of that, because they can't walk to some of these things and it is a hassle to park. Also, there was a comment that there are not enough evening activities -- roll the streets up at night at community centers. In terms of priorities, it was mentioned even before we got to the wetlands question that it was something special; have a wetlands. At that point there was mention of a pond and some fishing, etc., but we deferred that until we got to that question. On the parks versus the National Forest question, there was a comment that we should pursue a partnership between the City and the Forest Service to create some programs. Then, they generated their own question, which was if it was wise for the City to spend money on this study, and they tossed that around a little bit, and came to the conclusion that they needed to wait until the end to see if it was worth the money being spent, but they don't want anyone to assume that the answers we get or the recommendations should be taken just because money was spent on it; we need to carefully consider those things when the time comes. There also was mention of a citizens' study that was done in 2008 and one of the people at the table was a member of that activity and indicated that she would be very disappointed if that study was not taken into consideration, so she wants to make sure that you know about that study.

Councilor Rayner indicated that it was the Posse Grounds Operations Plan and Andi Welsh indicated that she is familiar with that; it wasn't a study, it was just an operations plan. Vice Chairman Thompson then indicated that as far as the wastewater treatment area question, there was general consensus that we don't want something big there; perhaps something that is like nature trails or a quiet place to commune with nature, but they definitely don't like the idea of development between Sedona and Cottonwood of any substantial nature. It is a good possibility that it is an area to grow food with a public-private joint venture to provide local restaurants with food. Regarding the final question on the cost of it, there was general consensus that if the benefits are well communicated, people are open to the idea of spending more money to get good facilities.

Kathy Levin indicated the table was distinguished by having two students to give the youth's perspective, as well as the City Manager, so it was a very diverse group. Regarding the current facilities, it was felt that what we have is of very high quality and that is what young families are looking for. From our second homeowners, there is a concern and a hypersensitivity to related noise, lights and safety around recreational facilities, including parks. Some of the residents didn't know there was a botanical park, but they thought it would be useful for tourists who are interested in local and native plants. A minor opinion on that issue was that perhaps you could take all of the money from those little parks and get rid of them to put in a big one. Regarding the desires being met, the students at the charter school would like to see an ice skating rink to ice skate in the winter and perhaps use for baseball in the summer and basketball, so it would be a family location and destination. It was generally agreed that the creek is a huge amenity and what is missing is a park along the creek. It would be extremely popular with families and for children, and as one parent said; I'm past the age of wanting to really address that. The students also agreed that one big nice spot near the creek was needed, and we should be able to take care of our trash there, and we could attract tourists to the creek area. There is interest from the young families and others for an urban trails system that would include neighborhood connections that bypass 89A and would avoid using the cars; one of the students said that it is dangerous to bike on 89A. As for priorities, one would like see Main Street more park-like and several others said to continue to maintain Posse Grounds; it is a huge amenity for our community. It also was reiterated that there is a need for an indoor facility that would provide a pool, workout area and arcade that is not seasonal. Finally, as to taxes and fees, the students said yes, bring them on, but there were other opinions at the table. One homeowner expressed that he would be more than willing to pay a property tax if it would enhance our parks and recreation facilities, but another said let's think about creative ways, such as the way the Benefactors of Red Rock State Park came together.

Angela LeFevre indicated that they touched on some of the same things a little differently. The general impression was fine on the whole. Parks & Recreation is doing a good job, but they need more for the retirement community, such as golf, tennis and swimming. One felt very strongly about having the swimming pool open all year; there had been talk about that at one time and there was a plan for solar panels, but for some reason they were dropped. There is no other pool in the area and this is our community pool, so let's make it that way instead of getting agreements with these resorts to use their pools, so it can be open for everyone -- that was a big deal for them. The concept of community was very strong too and enhancements to some of the areas, such as the dog park; somebody had a great idea of charging an annual membership, in other words have some ownership in the park. Some talked about morphing the Barbara's Park with some other things like a community garden or greenhouse, making it more community friendly, so that may be something you can take into account. They wanted more open space and increased walkability, and the concept of the string of pearls. They wanted pocket parks in subdivisions, some ways and means of having more recreation for the kids there, and there is more need for open space within the communities. The river walk was also tagged as being really important. Some were sorry that the City does not want to get involved in small open spaces that fall under homeowners' associations, but they came up with some good ideas like maybe the City could give targeted grants to property owner associations to develop those small areas. One example was the community garden in the back of Windsong, which is being developed, and it could be used as a template for other areas. There was also talk about Smart Growth America, which is a program that offers assistance to communities on how to improve walkability, etc., so we could look into that. They agreed about the lack of safety on 89A for biking; that isn't a good idea and there are other options, but they really stressed reaching out to the associations. Regarding priorities for the next five to ten years, the pool came up again for all-year around; partnerships to generate revenues; some programs for kids like a basketball league, and there should be a park on S.R. 179. They also touched on the Cultural Park and thought that was a missed opportunity, and there are areas where an amphitheater could be and has been successful, for example, Fort Tuthill in Flagstaff. They also thought it was amazing what you can do with very simple things like S.R. 179 and the sidewalks there. People are using that area for jogging and they have benches, etc., and the bike shop is doing well there, so we might get some ideas from the VOC. Regarding the Wastewater Treatment Plant, they didn't go into a lot about what was possible there. Is it too far and are we going to "creep" out? If there is development there, they thought it was a bit far, although there are obviously ideas about a complex of athletic fields. Regarding what is important to

them, facilities and trails; there was a concern about wildcat trails and if we develop trails, they should pay fees for them, so as far as the last question about fees -- yes; also for the dog park and pool, they could give a break for residents and charge for special activities. Encourage National Forest facilities, somebody came up with the idea of developing the Century 21 property into a Ranger Station. We have one on S.R. 179, but why don't we have one in West Sedona where people could come and find out about the area and hiking, etc.

Elemer Magaziner indicated that the theme at the table was that we have a lot of great recreation facilities that a lot of people don't know about, and they don't know how to get to them or it is difficult to get to them, so the main idea was that what we have is really good, but we need easier access, like signs on the roads to show people where to go. Somebody said that they used to be able to get to trailheads very easily, but since people built homes and put up fences, they can't get to them. It is essentially a fact that there is a lot of good stuff here, but there isn't enough communication to know where they are, what they are, and what is available, and it is difficult to get to them. Somebody also said that the pool shouldn't be closed, and we talked about the wastewater facility as a recreational facility for walking and outdoor events, similar to Telluride where they use their parks for huge events. Bottom line, before we start building more parks & recreation facilities, we should take advantage of the ones we have and make them easier to use.

Judy Reddington indicated that a lot of what they talked about was similar to other tables' discussions, but they were a table of appreciators of the parks and users of the parks. They felt they are beautifully situated and the recreational programs are very good, particularly at Sunset Park, the pool, the tennis courts and all of the diverse activities. There might be a need for coordinated schedules, with particular concern about parking and shared parking facilities, but we seem to have a lot of activities that are overlapping. Scheduling for activities like soccer, which requires lots of practice use of facilities, gets very tricky, because those have to be coordinated with other activities, so that coordination seemed like an opportunity. One suggestion would be that we monitor the safety better and the hours that parks are used. They also agreed that the pool is excellent; tennis courts are excellent, but more hours for the pool was something, and they talked about possibly a bubble or an indoor pool as a possibility in the future, and the possibility of coordinating with the Forest Service for a mountain biking program, similar to the hiking program in town. They also thought there would be many uses for more open space like home town fairs, etc., and then they agreed that they possibly would support taxes or bond issues for any sort of special uses or new facilities, but not for general use of the public parks.

Vice Chairman Thompson indicated that he skipped over one of the most significant comments; they talked about a very substantial community center that would be a focal point in the City and a main part of it would be an indoor pool, but they also thought about educational opportunities going on at all times, and they mentioned Yoga and that in a place like this, you can't find a quiet place to do it, so there could be quiet areas as well as all other kinds of activities.

Jeff Kratzke, Project Manager with Olsson Associates: Indicated that was great and he just wanted to remind them of ways they can continue to stay informed. The community survey will be one of the next big items and their goal is to conduct that prior to Christmas and the end of year holidays. Also, the next workshop will be well advertised, and he confirmed with the participants that they felt that the word about this workshop was out there with the date and time, etc.; however, Judy Reddington asked how the time was selected and Andi Welsh explained that the time was based on the availability of the facility. Jeff then noted that it is always a challenge to pick a time that doesn't get in the way of people's lives; but it is trying to squeeze it in and get you home to your families. He then expressed appreciation for their time.

Vice Chairman Thompson then reminded everyone about the "party in a box" and explained the purpose, the contents and how they can be used, and if interested, Kathy Levin is the person to contact. Additionally, the Vice Chairman indicated that there will be two more workshops put on by the Citizens Steering Committee and the next one is on Wednesday, October 26th at 6:00 p.m. at St. Andrews Episcopal Church on the subject of Housing, and the last workshop will be on November 17th on the subject of Transportation.

Jeff Kratzke, Project Manager with Olsson Associates: Asked how everyone liked this format and some participants voiced that it was very good. Jeff indicated that the recorders did a very good job on the comments, and everything produced on this project will be on the website.

Andi Welsh then thanked everyone for coming.

The workshop ended at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna A. S. Puckett, *Recording Secretary*

Date